

OBAMA ET AL. -- 10/665,575

Client/Matter: 008312-0306030

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A paper sheet detection apparatus comprising:
 - a conveying device which conveys a paper sheet along a conveying surface;
 - a detection device which is provided opposite to the conveying surface and detects a paper sheet conveyed by the conveying device;
 - a guide device which is provided in at least the paper sheet take-in side of the detection device and formed with a pair of guide members disposed opposite to each other at both sides of the conveying surface;
 - a nozzle which is provided in the opposite surface of the pair of guide members; and
 - a gas supply device which supplies compressed gas to the pair of guide members and ejects the gas from the nozzle between the pair of guide members.
2. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide device is provided in the paper sheet take-in side and take-out side of the detection device.
3. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of grooves provided at a certain interval on the opposite surface of said pair of guide members in the paper sheet conveying direction and in the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction, and a plurality of nozzles provided at least in the parts surrounded by said plurality of grooves on the opposite surface of said pair of guide members.
4. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of nozzles are disposed like a column on the line parallel to the paper sheet conveying direction, and the interval between the outermost nozzle column is set wider than the width dimension of the paper sheet in the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction.

OBAMA ET AL. -- 10/665,575
Client/Matter: 008312-0306030

5. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said pair of guide members consists of a plurality of divided guides divided vertically and horizontally along the paper sheet conveying direction and the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction; and each of the divided guides is provided movable, and has a nozzle to eject compressed gas.
6. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said pair of guide members consists of a plurality of divided guides divided over the paper sheet conveying direction; each of the divided guide parts has a nozzle to eject compressed gas; the gas supply device controls the supply of compressed gas to said plurality of divided guide members by switching the pressure and flow rate to be different at a certain cycle, and moves a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed gas ejected from the nozzles of said plurality of divided guides along the paper sheet conveying direction.
7. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the gas supply device generates a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed air blown out from the nozzle, according to the height or the flow rate increment and decrement of the pressure of the compressed gas supplied to the divided guides.
8. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the other one of said pair of guide members is fixedly provided.
9. (Original) A paper sheet detection apparatus comprising:
a conveying device which conveys a paper sheet along a conveying surface;
a detection device which is provided opposite to the conveying surface and detects a paper sheet conveyed by the conveying device;
a guide device which is provided in at least the paper sheet take-in side of the detection device and formed with a pair of guide members disposed opposite to each other at both side of the conveying surface;
a nozzle which is provided in the opposite surface of the pair of guide members;
an energizing device which elastically energizes one of the pair of guide members toward the other guide member; and
a gas supply device which generates a clearance between the pair of guide members

OBAMA ET AL. -- 10/665,575
Client/Matter: 008312-0306030

by moving one of the pair of guide members against the energizing force of the energizing device, by supplying compressed gas to the pair of guide members and ejecting the gas from the nozzle between the pair of guide members.

10. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the guide device is provided in the paper sheet take-in side and take-out side of the detection device.

11. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a plurality of grooves provided at a certain interval on the opposite surface of said pair of guide members in the paper sheet conveying direction and in the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction, and a plurality of nozzles provided at least in the parts surrounded by said plurality of grooves on the opposite surface of said pair of guide members.

12. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of nozzles are disposed like a column on the line parallel to the paper sheet conveying direction, and the interval between the outermost nozzle column is set wider than the width dimension of the paper sheet in the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction.

13. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of said pair of guide members consists of a plurality of divided guides divided vertically and horizontally along the paper sheet conveying direction and the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction; and each of the divided guides is provided movable, and has a nozzle to eject compressed gas.

14. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of said pair of guide members consists of a plurality of divided guides divided over the paper sheet conveying direction; each of the divided guide parts has a nozzle to eject compressed gas; the gas supply device controls the supply of compress gas to said plurality of divided guide members by switching the pressure and flow rate to be different at a certain cycle, and ~~moves a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed gas ejected from the~~ nozzles of said plurality of divided guides along the paper sheet conveying direction.

OBAMA ET AL. — 10/665,575

Client/Matter: 008312-0306030

15. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the gas supply device generates a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed air blown out from the nozzle, according to the height or the flow rate increment and decrement of the pressure of the compressed gas supplied to the divided guides.

16. (Original) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the other of said pair of guide members is fixedly provided.

17.-23. (Cancelled)